

course extensively discussed. Sewage disposal is given attention by Whipple; vital statistics by Trask. Occupational diseases and industrial hygiene occupy a section—also schools and disinfection.

E. A. V.

Theoretical and Applied Colloid Chemistry. By Wolfgang Ostwald. Authorized translation from German by Martin H. Fisher. New York: Wiley. 1917.

This is an elaboration of a series of lectures delivered by Dr. Ostwald before a number of American universities and societies during the winter of 1913-14. In hardly more than a half score years colloid chemistry has grown to be the giant of the chemical sciences. The first lectures deal with the fundamental properties of the colloids, their classification and their changes in state. All mystery concerning the colloids is dissipated and the colloids clearly established as standing midway between the mechanical suspensions and the molecular dispersed solutions. Of medical interest is the portion devoted to biology and pathology. Here the biologist has an open sesame to the mysteries of life. "All life processes take place in a colloid system." Living protoplasm is a colloid. Fischer's theory of edema is sustained in that the increased swelling and water content is brought about by an electrolyte action upon the plasma colloids. This theory has been attacked, but this attack is disarmed by the process of "syneresis." Syneresis is the property of gels, under thermal or chemic influences, to "weep" or "exude" a portion of itself in a fluid state. All the processes of life, embryonal development, growth, muscular contractions are expressed in terms of colloid reaction. Vital staining and synthetic biology are explained and made plausible. The book is a wonderfully lucid exposition of colloid chemistry. Every statement is substantiated by physical demonstration. I desire also to pay my respects to Martin Fischer, the translator. Neither in construction nor mode of expression is there a suggestion of the work being written in a foreign tongue. Not once from cover to cover, is there a quoted German word for want of an equivalent in our own language.

E. A. V.

Clinical Treatise on Diseases of the Heart for General Practitioner. By Edward E. Cornwall. N. Y.: Rebman. 1917. Price, \$1.50.

This volume is an excellent and terse primer for those who want to get the worn-out and incorrect attitude with which diseases of the heart were approached up to about fifteen years ago. It puts in readable and well tabulated form the old conceptions by which heart disease was judged according to murmurs and their exact time and place in the cardiac cycle. The later and more intelligent conceptions of adjudging heart disease from the point of view of the various functions of the heart muscle is given recognition hardly more than in passing. The writer betrays either serious ignorance of, or culpable misbelief in, the modern work which has done so much to lead us more intelligently in the treatment of cardiac disorders. To say, in speaking of paroxysmal tachycardia, that "the contractions are, in reality, extra systoles, and, possibly in some cases, may be produced by auricular fibrillation," betrays a woeful unfamiliarity with the pathology of this condition, and if this statement of the author's were accepted on faith one would feel sorry that the book were written. Furthermore, the enunciation as a dogma that the digitalis group is contraindicated in mitral stenosis makes one really feel that something ought to be done in the way of compelling a man to be licensed before he is allowed to have a book published.

The book is bound in Rebman gray, and the title

is printed in a striking black along the outer side. This may make the book an attraction to some people.

H. I. W.

Diseases of Women. By Henry Sturgeon Crossen. 4th edition. 1160 pages. 800 engravings. St. Louis: Mosby. 1917.

This practical and well-written book, while especially valuable to the general practitioner, has also its place in the library of the specialist in gynecology. There is no attempt to go into the technic of major surgical operations, but the book includes discussions of the conditions which necessitate operation and the preparation and after care of surgical cases as well as medico-legal problems.

The subject-matter is thoroughly up-to-date, the material is well arranged, and it is seldom that we find a subject treated in so clear, concise and comprehensive a manner. The illustrations, which are numerous, are particularly good and are a distinct aid to the text. There is added to this new fourth edition a chapter on the internal secretory glands in relation to gynecology by Dr. Hugo Ehrenfest, professor of gynecology and obstetrics in St. Louis University. This chapter is an instructive presentation of our present knowledge concerning the relation of the ductless glands to gynecology, and is a valuable addition to the book.

M. A. S.

Correspondence

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

San Francisco, California,

December 28, 1917.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:—A matter of vital importance to the public and to the medical profession has arisen in connection with the status of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of San Francisco, and we feel at this time we should acquaint the readers of the Journal with certain salient facts bearing upon the recognition of the graduates of this institution afforded by the Board of Medical Examiners as well as the facts leading up to the recent investigation of the institution made by a special committee of the Board appointed by President P. T. Phillips in an official communication dated early in November and which is made a part of the committee report on the College.

The minutes of the Board of Medical Examiners show:

(1) That graduates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons have been admitted to examination by Boards of Examiners prior to 1913.

(It is a well known fact that many well qualified and successful alumni of the P. & S. are now practicing in California.)

(2) That the first report of the College Investigating Committee filed by Dr. H. E. Alderson under date of June 15, 1914, recommended temporary approval of the College of P. & S., San Francisco, without comment.

(3) That the 1915 College Investigation Committee report submitted by Dr. W. R. Molony suggested certain improvements in the teaching faculty as well as equipment of the school and recommended approval for one year during which time the suggested improvements were to be effected.

(4) That June 29, 1916, Dr. A. M. Smith as chairman of the College Investigation Committee, recommended approval of the school for an additional period of six months, stating therein that certain improvements recommended in a prior report had not been made.

(5) That certain improvements were made in 1916, and the January 1917 report recommended additional improvements, approving the institution until the middle of 1917.

(6) That subsequently the attention of Presi-